



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 17 October 2007

Current Nationwide



[For info click here](#)

- *The Associated Press* reports that 3,000 residents and two schools were evacuated after a chemical spill at Reilly Plating Company in Michigan. According to officials, 500 gallons of hydrochloric acid leaked into a containment area at the plant generating worries that the chemical, in combination with expected rain, might become hazardous to the area's residents. (See item [4](#))
- *The Associated Press* reports that 26 percent of the southeast region of the country is covered by an "exceptional" drought, the National Weather Service's worst drought category. The worsening condition generated complaints about the way the Army Corps of Engineers managed the water rights. According to scientists, the drought will continue to affect the country as a La Nina weather system is forming, which could bring drier and warmer weather for Florida and most parts of Alabama and Georgia. (See item [17](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Nuclear Reactors](#); [Materials and Waste](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#); [Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#); [Information Technology](#); [Communications](#); [Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities](#); [Emergency Services](#); [National Monuments and Icons](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical:** ELEVATED, **Cyber:** ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *October 16, Reuters* – (International) **Oil sprints towards \$88**. Oil thundered towards \$88 a barrel on Tuesday, hitting a new record and extending a rally that has added eight dollars in a week on tight supplies, strong demand and tension in northern Iraq. Oil is closing in on the

inflation-adjusted high of \$90.46 seen in 1980, the year after the Iranian revolution and at the start of the Iran-Iraq war. Prices this year have averaged \$67. At 7:08 a.m., U.S. crude was up \$1.33 at \$87.46, off a high of \$87.97. London Brent was up \$1.22 at \$83.97. Oil has set a series of records over the past three days. Investors have cited rising tensions between Turkey and Kurdish separatists in northern Iraq, sturdy world energy demand growth, tight inventories in consumer nations heading into winter and unprecedented weakness in the U.S. dollar.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/10/16/AR2007101600202.html>

2. *October 16, The Associated Press* – (National) **National power grid report to be released.** The watchdog that oversees North America's power grid says the full promise of renewable fuels cannot be harnessed without first building more power lines that can carry this cleaner energy to consumers. In an annual report, the North American Electric Reliability Corp. of Princeton, New Jersey said increasingly popular state government rules requiring a certain percentage of electricity to be from renewable sources will require massive investments in transmission capacity. Even without an increase in the country's dependence on renewables, the grid watchdog said electricity use is growing twice as fast as the resources used to generate and transmit it, and that power companies will need significantly more transmission capacity to ensure high levels of service reliability.
Source: http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/business/AP-Power-Grid-Renewables.html?_r=1&oref=slogin
3. *October 16, The NY Times* – (California) **A 'circuit of the future' that keeps blackouts brief and local is tried in California.** The blackouts that attract attention are the ones that hit entire cities. However, most of the time, only a handful of homes and businesses are left in the dark because of a failure of a distribution circuit. Now Southern California Edison is trying a "circuit of the future," using technologies that the utility says will limit the size of the area affected and shorten the length of a power failure. On a five-mile circuit that feeds about 1,400 customers in San Bernardino County, a rapidly growing area east of Los Angeles, sensors measure the temperature of cable ducts and other components, allowing controllers to load them without risk of overheating. In case of a short circuit, a device called a fault current limiter will stop a surge to prevent damage to the equipment, much the way a surge protector works on a personal computer. If the short circuit is brief — because of a tree branch brushing a cable or an animal being zapped in a transformer — the circuit may insulate customers from a power failure. If there is a failure, sensors will locate it to within a few city blocks, allowing the utility to keep most of the circuit in service, according to the company. The circuit cost about \$3.5 million, about 10 percent more than a traditional circuit, according to the company. In addition, the Energy Department provided nearly \$1 million in research and development help.
Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/10/16/business/16electric.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Industry

4. *October 16, The Associated Press* – (Michigan) **Schools, residents evacuated for chemical spill.** Three-thousand residents and two schools are being evacuated in Melvindale after a

chemical spill at Reilly Plating Company and potential rain could make the situation even worse, officials said. Officials said the leak happened around 10 a.m. Police have evacuated 3,000 residents who live or work in the area of Oakwood and Dix roads, including a small trailer park, according to the Melvindale Fire Chief. There are no injuries reported. Officials said 500 gallons of hydrochloric acid leaked into a containment area at the plant. There is concern about the rain in the forecast. If the acid gets into the rain water, it could be more hazardous. There is also concern that when the acid mixes with the rain, a larger vapor cloud could form. Officials said cleanup could take up to six hours. Hydrochloric acid is the major component of gastric acid and is highly corrosive.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,302259,00.html>

5. *October 15, KARE* – (Minnesota) **Chemical spill causes scare, no injuries.** Hazmat crews and emergency vehicles were called to Diversified Manufacturing after a 9 a.m. chemical spill. The Newport based company specializes in contract manufacturing and private label filling of all sorts of products, including beauty, pharmaceutical, industrial and automotive. According to the St. Paul Park Fire Chief, 300 gallons of hydrochloric acid fell off a truck and broke open. The chemical pooled and let off a plume of smoke. He said nine workers at the plant were put through decontamination procedures as a precaution. He said no one was injured and none of the workers had to be hospitalized. None of the spilled chemical entered the sewer system. Source: http://www.kare11.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=267365

6. *October 15, WSOC* – (South Carolina) **Faulty equipment may be responsible for chemical leak at Rock Hill Water Plant.** Brand new equipment is likely to blame for a chemical leak in Rock Hill that closed down roads and forced more than a thousand evacuations. Monday, workers at the Rock Hill Filtration Plant on Cherry Road saw a greenish film on the windows of one of the buildings. They recognized it as a chlorine dioxide leak and called for help. The leak was contained in less than an hour. No one was injured. City officials said there was never an issue with the city's water, and there is no evidence that any of the gas escaped the building into the air. To find the source of the problem, employees are looking at the equipment which has only been in use for about five weeks. They said a defective pump may be to blame. Source: <http://www.wsoc.tv.com/news/14339895/detail.html?rss=char&psp=news>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste

7. *October 16, WVLT* – (Tennessee) **New nuclear reactor to be built in East Tennessee.** The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is moving forward with plans to build a second nuclear reactor in East Tennessee. The TVA awarded Bechtel Power Corporation the rights to become the main engineering, procurement and construction contractor for construction of a second reactor at the Watts Bar Nuclear Station in Spring City. The five-year project is budgeted at nearly 2.5 billion dollars. Bechtel is the country's largest nuclear contractor. Meanwhile, for the fifth time in four months, TVA's unit one reactor at the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant in Athens, Alabama is shut down. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission says the reactor was operating at full power Friday morning when a turbine trip forced it to shut down automatically. A spokesperson for Browns Ferry says the unit two and unit three reactors are continuing to operate at full power.

Source: <http://www.volunteertv.com/news/headlines/10571456.html>

8. *October 15, San Antonio Business Journal* – (Nevada) **Nuclear Regulatory Commission awards SwRI a \$123 million advisory contract.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) renewed its contract with Southwest Research Institute (SwRI) for another five years. Through this contract extension, SwRI will continue operating the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses for the government. The contract is worth \$123 million over the five-year period. The center provides technical assistance to NRC staff by conducting pre-licensing and licensing reviews of a potential geologic repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. This particular site has been studied for the past 20 years and is slated to become the first geologic repository for the disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. The U.S. Department of Energy plans to submit a license application to the commission by June 30, 2008. If the commission authorizes construction of the nuclear waste site at Yucca Mountain, the Energy Department could begin receiving waste by 2017. The ultimate goal is to create a site that can house and isolate 70,000 metric tons of high-level radioactive nuclear waste from the environment for at least 10,000 years. Currently, nuclear waste in the United States is stored at more than 100 locations across the country.
http://www.bizjournals.com/sanantonio/stories/2007/10/15/daily10.html?ana=from_rss
9. *October 15, WSYR* – (New York) **Oswego Nuclear Reactor shut down Fitzpatrick Nuclear Power Plant.** Turbulent water and a build-up of lake debris in a water intake last weekend forced operators to shut down a reactor at the James A. Fitzpatrick nuclear plant near Oswego, New York. It was the second time in just over a month that the Lake Ontario facility's water intake became clogged. This time lake algae blocked the intake screening system. As a result, plant operators manually shut down the nuclear facility early Sunday morning to allow workers to remove the debris. A heavy storm on September 12th caused a similar problem. The plant spokeswoman says neither incident posed a safety risk to the public
Source: http://www.9wsyr.com/news/local/story.aspx?content_id=425cbb36-eb41-40b1-a8da-c08f19268cb2&rss=112

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

10. *October 16, The Washington Post* – (District of Columbia) **Pentagon submits budget, and services ask for more.** The Pentagon not only left new C-17 transport planes out of its budget request this year, it set aside half a billion dollars to halt the planes' production. Officially, the Air Force took the same view, swearing off any more C-17s, which cost \$250 million apiece. Behind the scenes, however, Air Force officials and Boeing, which makes the C-17, have been lobbying Congress to get more of the planes built, key lawmakers said. Seven House members have responded by inserting into the defense bill one of that chamber's largest single earmarks – a demand that the Air Force give Boeing \$2.42 billion for new C-17s.
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/10/15/AR2007101501768.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

11. *October 16, Identity Theft Assistance Center-* (National) **Don't be tricked by scams that use your financial information to commit fraud.** The Identity Theft Assistance Center (ITAC) released a report in which it warns consumers of three of the most common scams involving personal information and access to financial accounts. "Everyone should have a healthy dose of skepticism when it comes to responding to urgent requests for personal information or access to your financial accounts," said ITAC's executive director. The official further discussed the three most common methods used by fraudsters to steal personal and financial information: phishing, which involves emails leading to counterfeit websites; pretexting used by people posing as some type of representative and trying to obtain Social Security numbers, driver license, financial accounts, etc; and fake checks, which are usually sent on behalf of non-existent lotteries, foreign businesses, and work-at-home offers.

Source:

http://home.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/index.jsp?ndmViewId=news_view&newsId=20071016005136&newsLang=en

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation

12. *October 16, USA Today-* (National) **Lawmakers: Aircraft repair shops overseas vulnerable.** The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) was criticized for failing to implement tighter security regulations against individuals who have access to U.S. airplanes in repair shops overseas. The TSA chief appeared before the House and Senate to answer why the agency did not write the security regulations that the Congress demanded almost four years ago. The matter has received increased attention after a classified report stated "a senior technician at a shop in Singapore worked for al-Qaeda and in late 2001 photographed U.S. aircraft as potential targets." "The worry is that a terrorist could plant a bomb in an airplane and later detonate it while passengers are on board," said an aviation-security consultant and former security chief at Northwest Airlines. However, the TSA spokesman argued against these allegations and dismissed any danger posed to U.S. airplanes that undergo repairs in foreign countries, claiming that all airplanes are inspected thoroughly before, during, and after each flight. In order to put pressure on the agency to comply with their 2003 request, lawmakers decided last August that no new overseas repair shops could be licensed to conduct work on U.S. planes if the TSA does not finish inspections on all existing shops by February 2009.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2007-10-15-tsa_N.htm

13. *October 15, The Associated Press -* (National) **TSA laptops with personal info missing.** Two laptop computers containing the names, addresses, birthdays, commercial driver's license numbers and, in some cases, Social Security numbers of 3,930 people, are missing and considered stolen. The information pertained to drivers participating in the Hazardous Materials Endorsement Threat Assessment, which collects information for security-clearance purposes from commercial drivers across the country, who transport hazardous materials. The two computers were in the possession of a contractor working for the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). The TSA spokesman said that none of the information on the

computers has been misused yet. Some were outraged at the news of the security breach, especially on the eve of the new Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) program, according to which 750,000 employees with access to port areas will have to undergo background checks. However, the spokesman stated that the TWIC program will run through TSA computers, not the contractor's.

Source:

http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jVsQSGHmxE5jv_4QU9UxSKo2ggGQD8S9TH7G2

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture and Food Sector

14. *October 16, San Francisco Chronicle* – (California) **Authorities take action after medflies found near San Jose.** A number of medflies were found in the San Jose area in recent weeks, the second Northern California region to find the bugs in recent months. The South Bay discovery comes after a similar number of medflies were found in the town of Dixon (Solano County) in September. An unchecked infestation of the infamous flies poses a significant threat to the state's \$34 billion agriculture industry, not only in damage to fruit, nuts and vegetables, but also to demand in foreign markets. The medfly can infest more than 260 types of fruits, nuts and vegetables in California. In Santa Clara County, where seven flies have been found in recent weeks, the potential agricultural loss is \$130 million to stone fruit, apples, pears, strawberries and more, said the county agriculture commissioner. Each week for the next nine to 10 months, the state will drop 2.7 million sterile male Mediterranean fruit flies from airplanes over an 11-square-mile region of San Jose. As female flies have only one sexual encounter before dying, officials expect that the introduction of sterile males will decrease the overall population. Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/10/16/BUMPSQD41.DTL>
15. *October 16, New York* – (National) **Senator to introduce legislation aimed at giving USDA more power.** A New York Senator has a plan to give the Department of Agriculture more power to keep consumers safe. Following a wave of recent beef recalls, he plans to introduce legislation that would give the USDA the authority to temporarily shut down contaminated processing plants. Right now, the USDA only has the power to recommend a shut down or recalls to a plant. "The USDA, in recent years, has become a toothless tiger when it comes to keeping our meat safe and keeping our meat clean," he said. "The wave of recent recalls has to be a wakeup call to keep our safety house in order, once and for all." Source: <http://www.ny1.com/ny1/content/index.jsp?stid=1&aid=74571>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

16. *October 16, The Baltimore Sun*– (Maryland) **Tainted water creates a divide.** The discovery of trichloroethylene, a toxic industrial solvent, in wells in a Harford County, Maryland subdivision prompted officials to create a \$2.2 million plan to connect the entire community to the public water supply. State and federal agencies have provided grants to cover the estimated cost of design and construction of the \$2.2 million project and made available a \$454,000 loan to allay other costs. However, all of the owners must cap their wells at their own expense and connect to the public system within three years of construction. Many of the owners are retired and oppose the cost of adding their homes to the public system. Residents voted 39-38 last month against the hookup, with seven abstentions. The Harford County Council will decide whether to override the residents and assess each household a share of the costs.
Source: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/harford/baltimore.md.ha.neighbors16oct16,0,483193.story>
17. *October 16, The Associated Press* – (National) **Epic drought tightens grip on Southeast as new rations weighed.** About 26 percent of the American Southeast is covered by an “exceptional” drought, the National Weather Service’s worst drought category. The affected area extends over most of Tennessee, Alabama and the northern half of Georgia, as well as parts of North and South Carolina, Kentucky and Virginia. The only spots in the region not suffering from abnormally dry conditions are parts of southern and eastern Florida and southeast Georgia. Government forecasters say the drought started in parts of Georgia and Alabama in early 2006 and spread quickly, in part due to sweltering temperatures and a drier-than-normal hurricane season. As conditions worsen, the Army Corps of Engineers has become a favorite target of lawmakers in Georgia, Florida and Alabama, where the drought has intensified a decades-old feud involving how the Corps manages water rights. On Friday, Georgia’s governor threatened to take legal action if the Corps continued to let more water out of a north Georgia water basin than it collects. Scientists have little reason to hope the drought will ease anytime soon. The Southeast Climate Consortium warns that a La Nina weather system is forming, which could bring drier and warmer weather for Florida and most parts of Alabama and Georgia.
Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,302064,00.html>
18. *October 16, MSNBC* – (National) **Mississippi River a watery mess, experts warn.** A major scientific assessment by experts with the National Research Council was released Tuesday. It concluded that the federal government is not doing enough to monitor and manage the water quality of the Mississippi River and its impact on the Gulf of Mexico, where an annual “dead zone” from farm runoff is killing marine life. The experts call on the Environmental Protection Agency to coordinate the efforts affecting the river and the northern Gulf of Mexico, where its water is discharged. In recent years, actions have reduced much point-source pollution, such as direct discharges from factories and wastewater treatment plants. But the report notes that many of the river’s remaining pollution problems stem from nonpoint sources, such as nutrients and sediments that enter the river and its tributaries through runoff. Greater effort is needed to ensure that the river is monitored and evaluated as a single system, said the report. While the 10 states along the river conduct their own programs to monitor water quality, state resources vary widely and there is no single program that oversees the entire river.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21321821/>

19. *October 15, The Charlotte Observer* – (North Carolina) **More water conservation urged.** The governor of North Carolina asked communities and individuals today to increase water conservation so that he does not need to invoke his emergency powers to require water rationing. He warned that without greater conservation some industries could be forced to close, throwing people out of work. Of the state's 100 counties, 86 are in the two most intensive categories of drought, "exceptional" and "extreme," according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. The governor has issued a ban on all outdoor burning to avoid wildfires. "The last thing we need is a forest fire, because we don't have the water to put it out," he said. He previously asked state agencies to lower their water use by 20 percent and said he might ask them to increase the savings to 30 percent this week. Many communities already have imposed voluntary or mandatory water restrictions. In Raleigh, for example, the City Council is scheduled to talk Tuesday about stiffening water limits already in place.

Source: http://www.charlotte.com/breaking_news/story/320025.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

20. *October 16, Associated Press* – (Washington) **Rare tropical fungus infects four, kills two in Washington state.** Cryptococcus gattii, a rare, invisible tropical fungus has found its way into Washington state infecting at least four residents, two of whom have died, a health official said. The fungus first appeared in British Columbia six years ago and is believed to have crossed the border into Washington's Whatcom County. Cryptococcus gattii infections usually begin in the lungs but can also spread to the brain and develop into deadly meningitis. The fungus is sometimes resistant to medication that is used to treat a more common, related fungus, Cryptococcus neoformans, which typically infects people whose immune systems are impaired, and scientists have not found a way to reduce the risk of getting the disease.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,302068,00.html>

21. *October 16, Mathaba News Agency* – (International) **Thailand, Laos join forces to combat bird flu.** The Thai Public Health Minister has stressed the importance of cooperation between his country and neighboring Laos in preventing potential bird flu outbreaks along the border. The Director General of Thailand's Disease Control Department said that there is a five-year public health cooperation plan (2007-2011) between Thailand and Laos that focuses on prevention of bird flu, dengue fever, malaria, HIV and tuberculosis. Under the plan, rapid mobile units would work along the Thai-Lao border to monitor these diseases. There has been no report of new bird flu human cases in Thailand for 14 months.

Source: <http://mathaba.net/news/?x=567372>

22. *October 16, The Associated Press* – (West Virginia) **Rare mosquito illness claims life of 6-year-old in West Virginia.** Following the death of a 6-year-old Fayette County, West Virginia girl infected with La Crosse encephalitis, a rare disease transmitted by mosquitoes, three states are focusing on a puzzling phenomenon. The illness is usually recorded about 75 times a year nationwide, but is most likely to be found in only a few counties in West Virginia, Ohio and North Carolina. Since 2001, between one half and two-thirds of all cases have been recorded in

these states, even though the disease has been logged in 28 states. Health officials are not sure why the disease is so common in the three states, but theorize that many cases go unreported in areas where doctors are unfamiliar with the disease.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,302070,00.html>

23. *October 15, Associated Press* – (National) **Medtronic pulls defibrillation leads.** On Monday Medtronic Inc. warned doctors that the wires connecting a patient's heart to its implantable defibrillators break too often. The company told doctors to stop using the Sprint Fidelis wires after linking five deaths to breaks in them. The company said the Fidelis wires failed slightly more often than the thicker wires they were meant to replace. The problem does not affect Medtronic pacemakers.

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2007/10/15/ap4222294.html>

Government Facilities Sector

24. *October 16, The Star-Ledger* – (New Jersey) **New school protocols cover gunmen and bomb scares.** New Jersey schools will have standard guidelines for dealing with a range of school security crises, from bomb threats to an “active shooter” in the building. At a Trenton news conference yesterday, officials said uniform procedures are needed in the face of what may be a rising number of threats to schools, although they conceded that inconsistent data left them uncertain of the extent of the problem. The task force made several recommendations yesterday, including enhanced training for school and law enforcement personnel. It also recommended legislation that requires regular school drills for all types of emergencies, including when a gunman is loose in the school building. “We don’t drill active shooters in schools; we drill fires,” New Jersey’s Homeland Security Director said. “More people have died from active shooters than from schools fires. Why aren’t we drilling active shooters at least as much?”

Source: <http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-0/1192510165309380.xml&coll=1>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

25. *October 16, The U.S. Department of Justice* – (National) **FBI to participate in TOPOFF 4 national preparedness exercise.** This week, the Federal Bureau of Investigation will take part in a multi-agency national preparedness exercise known as Top Officials, or TOPOFF. The exercise is the fourth segment of the TOPOFF series of congressionally mandated exercises administered by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and designed to strengthen the nation’s capacity to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from large-scale terrorist attacks. This full-scale exercise will simulate the response to a radiological dispersal device attack. More than 15,000 participants representing international, federal, state, local, and territorial entities are taking part in the exercise. The venues for this cycle, TOPOFF 4, are Arizona, Guam, and Oregon. In addition, activities will take place on a federal level in Washington, D.C. In coordination with the Department of State, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia are full international partners in the exercise.

Source: http://www.media-newswire.com/release_1056001.html

26. *October 15, WIVB Buffalo* – (New York) **Cheektowaga 9-1-1 emergency service temporarily out of order.** As of 11:00pm Monday evening, and until further notice, 9-1-1 Emergency Services in Cheektowaga, New York, are temporarily out of order. Until service is restored, people are asked to call 716-686-3501 or 716-686-3511. Verizon is currently working on the situation. See www.wivb.com for updated information.
Source: <http://www.wivb.com/global/story.asp?s=7218061>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Information Technology

27. *October 16, Computerworld* – (National) **Newest Windows update snafu puzzles Microsoft.** For the second time in a month, Microsoft Corp. has had to defend Windows Update against charges that it upgraded machines without users' permission. So far, it has no explanation for the newest instance of unauthorized updating. In a post published late Friday to a company blog, the program manager for Microsoft Update denied that Windows' update mechanism was to blame for reports of settings being changed without user interaction, updates downloading and installing, and systems rebooting. "We have received some logs from customers and have so far been able to determine that their AU [Automatic Update] settings were not changed by any changes to the AU client itself and also not changed by any updates installed by AU," he said. Claims started to trickle in shortly after the rollout last Tuesday of multiple security patches that machines running Windows Vista had updated on their own, even though users had set Automatic Update to require their approval before downloading and/or installing patches. Some users also reported that machines had rebooted, which caused data loss in applications that had been left open.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9042759&intsrc=hm_list

28. *October 15, Computerworld* – (National) **Researcher posts unofficial patch for Windows URI bug.** A researcher beat Microsoft to the patch punch Sunday by publishing an unofficial fix for a critical flaw in Windows XP and Server 2003 on PCs with Internet Explorer 7. KJK::Hyperion, a.k.a. "Hackbunny," a researcher believed to live in Italy, posted a link to the 16KB patch on both his Web site and the Full Disclosure security mailing list Sunday. KJK's patch, dubbed "ShellExecuteFiasco," blocks the execution of malformed URLs and forces normalization of valid URLs. URL normalization, which can include tasks such as changing a URL to all-lowercase and stripping out the "www" part of the address, is a technique used by search engines to reduce indexing of duplicate pages. Users, who apply the patch, do so at their own risk, KJK warned. "The present patch is dramatically under-tested and it has underwent [sic] no quality assurance procedure whatsoever, so please deploy with the greatest care," he said in the notes accompanying the fix. "It has a very good chance of misbehaving and making your system unusable." His patch targets the URI (Universal Resource Identifier) vulnerability that Microsoft acknowledged last week. On Thursday, the company's security group issued an advisory that spelled out the problem, which could allow attackers to compromise systems running Internet Explorer 7 if users clicked on malicious links embedded in e-mail messages or

posted on a Web page. Microsoft also said it would release a fix, but would not commit to a schedule. The unsanctioned patch can be downloaded from KJK's Web site.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/10/15/Researcher-posts-unofficial-patch-for-Windows-URI-bug_1.html

29. *October 15, Computerworld* – (California) **Governor vetoes bid to make retailers liable for banks' breach-related expenses.** In a move that is likely to come as a major relief to retailers nationwide, California's governor on Saturday vetoed legislation that would have made merchants in his state financially liable for the costs incurred by financial institutions because of retail data breaches. In a statement explaining his reasons for refusing to sign the bill, formally known as AB 779, the official said that it "attempts to legislate in an area where the marketplace has already assigned responsibilities and liabilities that provide for the protection of consumers." The measure, which was approved last month by both the California State Assembly and Senate, would have required retailers in California that get hit by data breaches to reimburse banks and credit unions for the cost of alerting customers and reissuing credit and debit cards. It would also have prohibited merchants from storing specific types of authentication data taken from the magnetic stripes on the back of payment cards, while requiring the use of so-called strong authentication technologies for protecting cardholder data.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9042630&intsrc=hm_list

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Communications Sector

30. *October 16, IDG News Service* – (National) **Google testing YouTube antipiracy system.** Google has unveiled a test version of a much-awaited antipiracy system for its wildly popular yet controversial YouTube video-sharing site. The system, called Video Identification, has been far from a secret. Google executives have been mentioning its development since the company acquired YouTube in November of last year. YouTube, which lets people upload and share clips, is the most popular video site, but some angry video owners have taken the company to court alleging copyright infringement. The best-known plaintiff is global media conglomerate Viacom, which sued Google in March for \$1 billion over the unauthorized uploading of video clips from its TV shows and movies. In its complaint, Viacom alleged that, as of March, almost 160,000 of its video clips had been uploaded to YouTube without permission and had been viewed over 1.5 billion times. The antipiracy system became news in July, when an attorney representing Google in the Viacom case said during a routine hearing that Video Identification would be ready by September. When describing the system, Google has consistently stressed that it will not block videos from being uploaded, but rather take

action, if necessary, after they have been added to the YouTube site. In other words, Google has never planned to place uploaded videos in a holding queue while it checks whether they can be made available on YouTube. Instead, Google will match uploaded clips against a repository of legitimate videos provided by their owners using digital fingerprinting technology and will take whatever action the copyright owner has requested, such as removing the clip or leaving it up on YouTube. It remains to be seen whether this highly anticipated system will help to appease those video content owners, who argue that YouTube does not do enough to prevent and combat piracy on its site and that instead it profits from the unauthorized and illegal uploading of copyright clips.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/10/16/Google-testing-YouTube-antipiracy-system_1.html

31. *October 15, IDG News Service* – (National) **Apple faces potential environmental lawsuit.** The Center for Environmental Health on Monday said that it has given Apple 60 days' legal notice -- a step required by California law before a lawsuit is launched. The action is based on the report by environmental group Greenpeace released earlier Monday that found hazardous materials in Apple's iPhone. The Greenpeace tests revealed chemicals that included "phthalates" in the vinyl plastic earphone wiring at levels that are prohibited in young children's toys in San Francisco and the European Union (EU). Under California's Proposition 65 law, products that can expose consumers to phthalates or other chemicals that are reproductive toxins or carcinogens must carry a warning label, according to the Center for Environmental Health. Apple representatives were not immediately available for comment on the lawsuit or the Greenpeace report.

Source:

http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/10/15/Apple-being-sued-based-on-Greenpeace-report_1.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Commercial Facilities Sector

32. *October 16, Salt Lake Tribune* – (Utah) **Angry shopper leaves box with a threat; no bomb, though, just shoes.** Police evacuated part of Fashion Place Mall in Murray, Utah after a woman, reportedly angry that a Nordstrom did not have the merchandise she wanted, dropped off a box she claimed contained a bomb. Local TV News Station, KUTV said that the police arrived, cleared the area of the mall between Nordstrom and the food court, and then dispatched a bomb robot to the box, which only contained shoes. Police are looking for the woman, who could face a terroristic threat charge.

Source: http://www.sltrib.com/ci_7192527

33. *October 16, WALB News 10* – (Georgia) **AFD investigation shopping center fire.** Fire investigators are still not sure what caused an early morning fire in east Albany, Georgia that damaged several businesses in the Shackleford Shopping Center. They say the fire started inside High Dollar Fashion and spread to two other businesses. All five businesses in the shopping center sustained smoke damage.

Source: <http://www.walb.com/Global/story.asp?S=7217337&nav=5kZQ>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

National Monuments & Icons Sector

34. *October 16, The Los Angeles Times* – (California; National) **Mining claims near wilderness areas in state seen as threat.** More than 21,300 mining claims have been staked within 10 miles of California's national parks and monuments and federal wilderness and roadless areas, according to an analysis of U.S. Bureau of Land Management records released Monday. Across the West, mining claims have skyrocketed in the last five years, driven by a boom in the global price of gold, copper, uranium, and other metals. With its open pits, acid drainage, and air and water pollution, mining is the dirtiest of all resource developments, accounting for more Superfund toxic cleanup sites than any other industry. It also requires vast amounts of water for the processing of metal ore at a time when shortages are plaguing Western states. The revival of hard rock mining also comes as Congress is grappling with how to revise the General Mining Law of 1872, which has seen few changes since it was signed into law. On Thursday, the House Committee on Natural Resources will take up a proposed revision of the statute that would impose royalties on mining companies and recognize the value of water quality, fish, and wildlife habitat in the consideration of claims. Roadless areas would be off-limits to new mines. Environmentalists are seeking an amendment for buffers to protect the Grand Canyon, Yosemite and other national parks.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-me-mining16oct16,1,5150053.story?coll=la-headlines-nation&ctrack=1&cset=true>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Dams Sector

35. *October 12, Times-Picayune* – (Louisiana) **St. Charles considers \$25 million loan for levee work.** The president of St. Charles Parish in Louisiana will ask the Parish Council to borrow \$25 million for use in construction of the West Bank Hurricane Protection Levee. The levee, which the parish has been trying to complete for more than a decade, is a top priority. As the parish's west bank is not included in the federal levee system, the parish has been building it in cooperation with the Lafourche Basin Levee District, which spends 57 percent of the tax money generated in the parish for the project. But environmental concerns over the proposed alignment have delayed the project, which could cost as much as \$70 million for the proposed 7-foot-high levee and pump stations to support it. The Army Corps of Engineers is considering construction of a federal levee that would protect the west bank, which has a population of more than 25,000 people, as well as portions of Lafourche Parish and possibly the town of Jean Lafitte. However, the route for that project has not been determined and would not start until 2012 at the earliest.

Source: http://blog.nola.com/times-picayune/2007/10/st_charles_considers_25_millio.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

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